fields visit come to the Government of India, we will definitely take all these things into consideration.

R&D Potential in Pharmaceutical Sector

*450. SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that India has the potential for becoming a global R&D hub in the pharmaceutical sector; and

(b) if so, the potential areas in which India can become a global hub?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SUKHDEV SINGH DHINDSA): (a) and (b) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Considering the fact that the Indian Pharmaceutical Industry has matured over the years and has developed a strong manufacturing base and that there is a very rich base of traditional knowledge, well developed engineering base, abundance of talent and infrastructure and successful experience in innovative process chemistry; India is in advantageous position to play its role in global Research and Development due to rising costs of Research overseas, greater tendency towards outsourcing and networking. Potential areas where opportunities exist are blending knowledge of traditional medicine with modern science, competence in Molecular Biology, Immunology and Biotechnology and Clinical Research.

SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO: Sir, I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether it is true that Dr. Mashelkar Committee has suggested measures for strengthening the R&D of pharmaceutical industry. If yes; what are the major recommendations of the Committee, and what action the Government has contemplated so far on those recommendations?

Sir, part (b) of my question is this. The hon. Minister has said in his reply that one of the potential areas for pharmaceutical industry is outsourcing. If so, I would like to know the details of outsourcing that India has made during the last two years in the pharmaceutical sector.

12.00 Noon

श्री सुखदेव सिंह ढिंडसा: पिछले सालों में हिंदुस्तान की फार्मुसिटिकल इंडस्ट्री ने आर॰एंड डी॰ सेक्टर में काफी तरक्की की है। उस में कई ऐसी कंपनीज हैं जिन्होंने नई दवा बनायी है और जो इंटरनेशनली कांपिटेटिव भी हैं, जैसे के सिपला है, हेट्रो है। उन के लिए सरकार की तीन मिनिस्ट्रीज में काम चल रहा है जिस में साइंस एंड टैक्नॉलोजी भी है। महोदय, माननीय सदस्य ने जो रिपोर्ट की बात की है, उस के लिए श्री जोशी की चैयरमैनशिप में एक टास्क-फोर्स बनी है जिस की रिपोर्ट तैयार होने जा रही है। उस के संबंध में मीटिंग हो गयी है, अब उसी में जो विचार आएगा उसे रिपोर्ट में देंगे।

श्री सभापति: प्रश्न संख्या-451. ...(*Interruptions*)...

SHRI MANOJ BHATTACHARYA: Sir, I have to put one supplementary on this question. ...(*Interruptions*)... Sir, I may be allowed to put a question.

श्री सभापति: मैं इसलिए कह रहा हूं कि एक इम्पोर्टेण्ट क्वैश्चन आ जाए। आप पूछना चाहें तो कोई आपत्ति नहीं होगी। नेक्स्ट क्वैश्चन।

NAIs benefits to A.P.

*451. SHRI C. RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have launched National Agricultural Insurance Scheme for farmers in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the number of farmers in Andhra Pradesh, benefited from the above scheme, during the last two years, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI AJIT SINGH): (a) to (c) A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

Statement

(a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) has been introduced in the country from Rabi 1999-2000 season. The salient features of the scheme are given in the Statement-I. (*See* below)

(c) A Statement-II indicating district-wise number of farmers benefited in Andhra Pradesh under NAIS during 2000-01 and 2001-02 is annexed.